

Appn.# 10/597,346 (Reistroffer)

Amendment C

Page 5 of 12

CLAIMS: *Please amend the claims according to the status designations in the following list, which contains all claims that were ever in the application, with the text of all active claims.*

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A rapidly igniting, prolonged burning incendiary strand for setting fire to combustible materials over an area of land, comprising:

a strand body of indeterminate length, comprising a plurality of co-linearly arranged and connectively assembled components forming a contiguous cross-sectional shape selected from the group consisting of tape, strip, ribbon, tube, filament, rope ~~[[or]]~~ and cord;

at least one solid or semi-solid fuel component arranged along the longitudinal axis of the strand body, the fuel component being operable when ignited to undergo self-sustained combustion in the presence of atmospheric oxygen and emitting flames from the exterior surface of the strand; and

rapid axial ignition means for initiating combustion of the ~~co-linearly arranged~~ fuel component, wherein the fuel component is ignited rapidly along the longitudinal axis of the strand body at a predetermined rate of combustive ignition propagation.

Appn.# 10/597,346 (Reistroffer)

Amendment C

Page 6 of 12

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The incendiary strand of claim 1, wherein the fuel component is selected from the group consisting of waxes, tars, natural resins, latex rubbers, gelled hydrocarbons, thermoplastic polymers, and silicon rubber.

3. – 6. (CANCELED)

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The incendiary strand of claim 2, wherein the fuel component is a composition comprising conifer tree resins.

8. – 10. (CANCELED)

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The incendiary strand of claim 1, wherein the fuel component sustains burning at any point along the strand for a period of time sufficient to raise the temperature of nearby vegetative matter to the point of ignition.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The incendiary strand of claim 1, wherein the fuel component exhibits flaming combustion for a duration of from ten seconds to five minutes, as measured at any point along the length of the strand.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The incendiary strand of claim 1, wherein the rapid linear axial ignition means comprises an elongate pyrotechnic element.

Appn.# 10/597,346 (Reistroffer)

Amendment C

Page 7 of 12

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The incendiary strand of claim 13, wherein the elongate pyrotechnic element is confined within the interior of an elongate close-fitting conduit.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The incendiary strand of claim 13, wherein the elongate pyrotechnic element is arranged centrally in a channel defined by other structural elements of the strand.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The incendiary strand of claim 1, wherein the fuel component comprises one or more planiform layers(s) of combustible thermoplastic resin, and wherein the fuel component and elongate pyrotechnic element are laminated between an upper covering layer and a lower covering layer to form a tape.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The incendiary strand of claim 16, wherein the fuel component layer of the tape is in a discontinuous pattern forming a central longitudinal gas channel in connective arrangement with multiple lateral gas channels.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The incendiary strand of claim 17, wherein the lateral gas channels are open to the exterior lateral edges of the tape and are longitudinally offset to either side of the longitudinal gas channel.

19. – 25. (CANCELED)

Appn.# 10/597,346 (Reistroffer)

Amendment C

Page 8 of 12

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The incendiary strand of claim 13, wherein the pyrotechnic element comprises a cellulose fiber substrate that is impregnated and coated with a pyrotechnic composition comprised of oxidizer and fuel compounds.

27. – 34 (CANCELED)

35. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The incendiary strand of claim 1, further comprising means for fragmentation of the strand into separate burning segments, subsequent to ignition.

36. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The incendiary strand of claim 35, wherein the means for fragmentation of the strand subsequent to ignition comprises rapidly burning segments of the strand body placed at selective intervals along the strand.

37. – 42. (CANCELED)

43. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The incendiary strand of claim 1, wherein the strand has sufficient flexibility to allow it to be wound upon a spool of suitable diameter for handheld deployment.

44. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The incendiary strand of claim 1, further comprising weatherproofing means for preventing infiltration of moisture into the strand body.

45. – 46. (CANCELED)

Appn.# 10/597,346 (Reistroffer)

Amendment C

Page 9 of 12

47. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of igniting vegetative matter over an area of land using the ~~linear~~ incendiary strand of claim 1, comprising the steps of:

laying out one or more ~~linear~~ incendiary strand(s) in a predetermined pattern throughout the area to be burned; and

igniting each incendiary strand in succession at intervals of time selected to achieve the desired fire behavior characteristics.

48. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of setting backfires in wildfire control activities using the ~~linear~~ incendiary strand of claim 1, comprising the steps of:

placing a first ~~linear~~ incendiary strand among combustible vegetative matter adjacent to fire control lines in the path of an advancing wildfire; and

igniting the first ~~linear~~ incendiary strand either by direct application of flame or by electrical activation.

49. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 48, further comprising the steps of:

Appn.# 10/597,346 (Reistroffer)

Amendment C

Page 10 of 12

placing additional ~~linear~~ incendiary strands along strips parallel in orientation to the first ~~linear~~ incendiary strand, at a distance of spacing between strips that is determined according to fuel, weather and topographical conditions; and

igniting the additional incendiary strands in a sequence timed to result in a line of fire being drawn from the control line outwardly toward the advancing wildfire and against the direction of the prevailing winds.

50. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 49, further comprising igniting the incendiary strands precisely at the onset of indraft winds generated from the advancing wildfire.

51. – 75. (CANCELLED)